In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, line 9 with the following paragraph:

Figure 1 is a block diagram of a typical LSF encoder based on vector quantization. The current frame of a digitized speech signal enters the LSF calculator unit 110 where the current LSF vector is computed. Previous quantized LSF vectors are kept in the buffer memory 150. Typically only one last previous vector is stored in the buffer memory 150. The LSF predictor unit 160 computes some predetermined number of LSF vector predicted values. ~~Indeed[[,]] some~~ Some of these predicted values are typically independent of previous LSF vectors.

Please replace the paragraph on page 3, line 19 with the following paragraph:

An improvement on MSVQ is M-best or delayed decision MSVQ, which is described in (W.P. LeBlanc, B. Bhatacharya, S.A. Mahmood and V. Cuperman, "Efficient search and design procedures for robust multistage VQ of LPC Parameters for 4 kb/s speech coding" *IEEE Transactions on speech and audio processing.* Vol. 1, No. 4, October 1993, pp. 373-385). The M-best MSVQ achieves better quantization results by keeping from stage to stage a few candidates (M candidates). The final decision for each stage is made only when the last quantization stage is performed. The more candidates that are kept, the higher the quantization gain that may be achieved and the greater the computational complexity.

Please replace the paragraph on page 16, line 11 with the following paragraph:

Further processing of error vectors is performed by two independent branches. These branches differ one from another in parameters of splitting means and codebooks used for

subvectors quantization. It is clear that generally speaking any number of processing branches

may be used in another embodiment of the present invention. Those vectors that enter ~~first~~

~~splitting means 530~~ first splitting means 730 are split into a predetermined number of subvectors

of smaller dimension. In this embodiment the input vectors are split into 2 subvectors each. Then

each subvector is quantized by a corresponding MSLQ unit 740, 750. A similar processing

occurs in second splitting means 735 and MSLQ units 760 and 770. Each of the MSLQ units

may have its own set of codebooks different from codebook used by other MSLQ units. The

outputs of the MSLQ units are sets of quantized subvectors along with corresponding codebook

indices. This information enters the select best candidate unit 780, where a final decision about

the best candidate is made. The output of quantizer contains the index of the best candidate and

indices of 4 codebooks calculated in MSLQ units 740, 750, 760, 770.